GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1543
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
POLLUTION IN MINING MINERAL RICH AREAS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution is increasing particularly in mining mineral rich areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any regular assessment of the level of pollution in such areas during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at the national level in various cities and towns and in critically polluted areas near mineral rich areas.The States of Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Karnataka have a major share of mineral rich areas of the country. The ambient air quality being monitored in the cities/ towns of these States near the mining mineral rich areas include Bangalore, Belgaum and Mangalore in Karnataka, Dhanbad and Jharia in Jharkhand, Talcher and Angul in Orissa and Udaipur in Rajasthan. The ambient air quality results of these towns have indicated that the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the national ambient air quality standards. However, the levels of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) exceed the standards.The levels of RSPM in the cities of Jharia, Angul, Bangalore and Mangalore are increasing and there is a fluctuating trend in the cities of Dhanbad, Talcher, Udaipur and Belgaum during the last three years and the current year. The relevant ambient air quality data is annexed.

(e) The steps taken for preventing air pollution in such areas include:

(i) A comprehensive industrial document on iron ore mining has been prepared and the guidelines are being implemented through the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

(ii) Standards for coal mines have been notified for ensuring their compliance.

(iii) Action Plans have been prepared for the critically polluted areas including the mining areas for restoration of environmental quality.

(iv)The mining projects are required to take environmental clearances from the Government.

(v) Guidelines have been prepared for rehabilitation of mined areas.

(vi) The ambient air quality standards have been notified for compliance.